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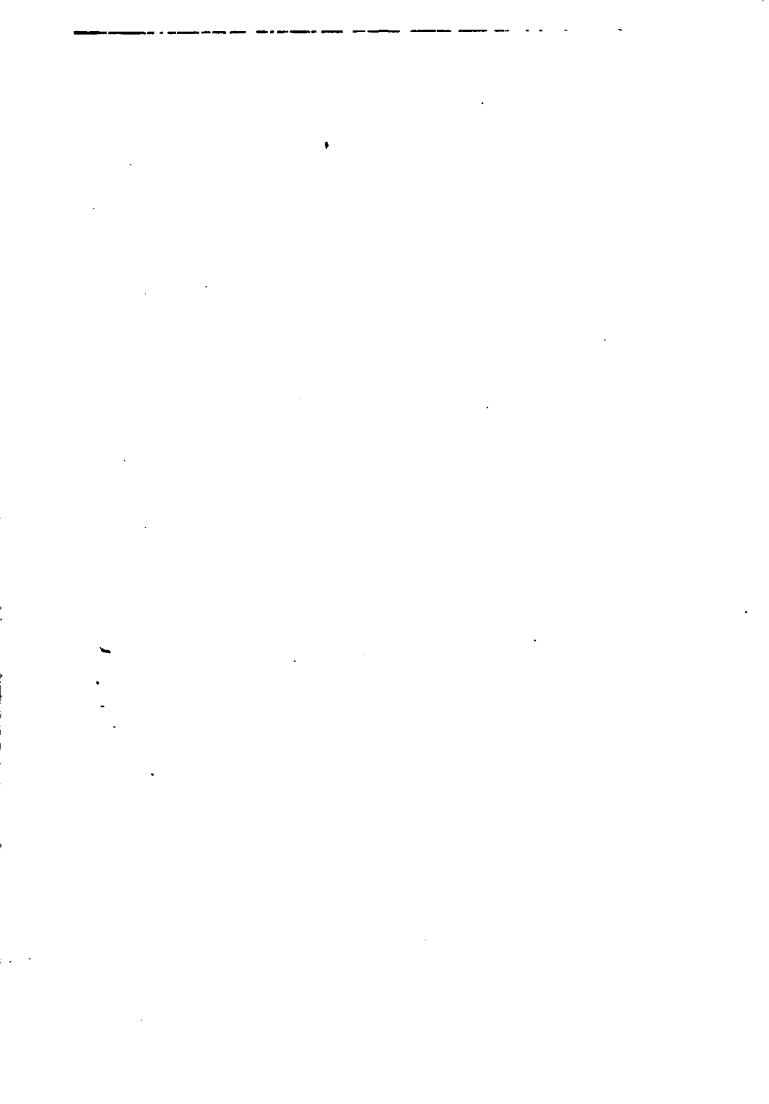


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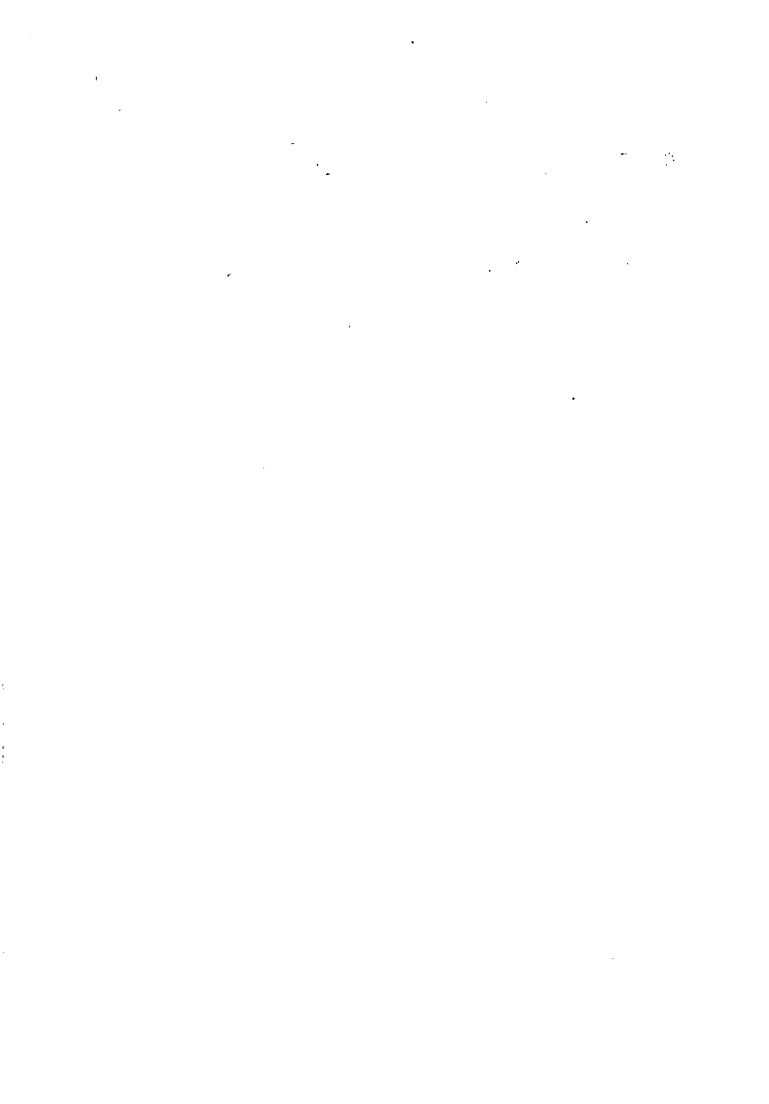


The Annunciation

AH! naught in Heaven, Divinity
beneath,

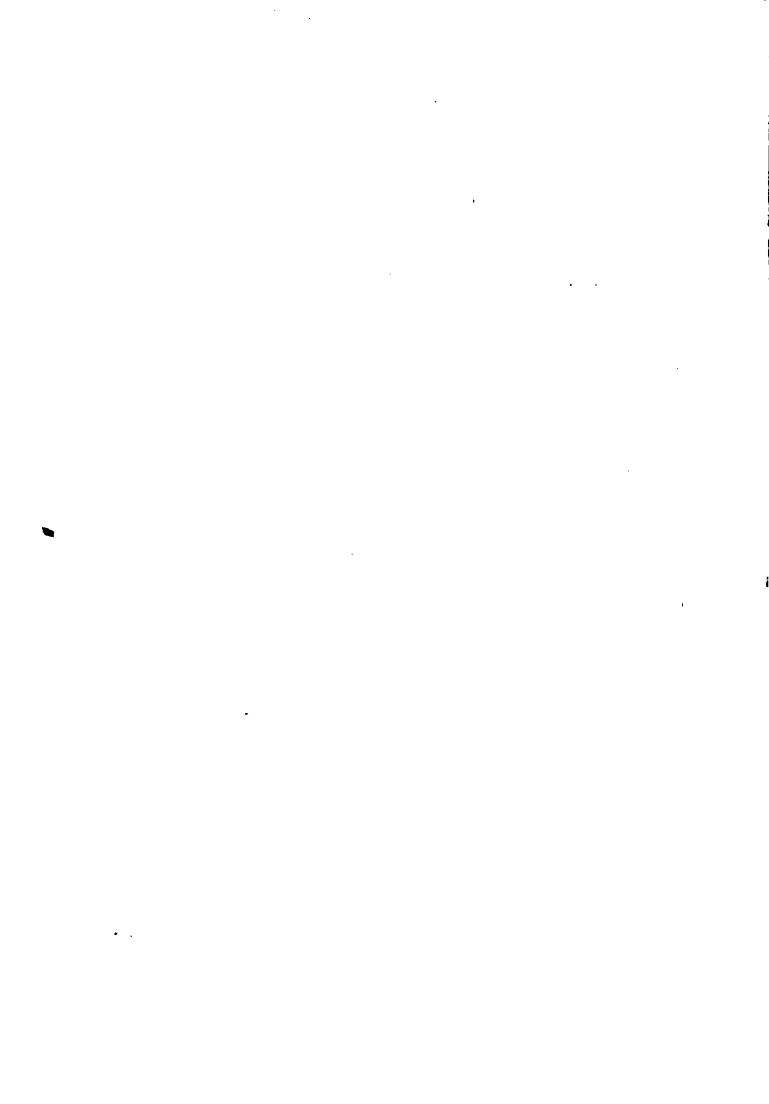
So pure as is this lily-gleam of earth
Whereat the highest angel holds his
breath,

In telling of a God's incarnate birth.



Mary

MAID-MOTHER of humanity divine,
Alone thou art in thy supremacy,
Since God Himself did reverence to thee
And built of flesh a temple one with thine,
Wherein, through all eternity, to shrine
His inexpressive glory. Blessed be
The miracle of thy maternity,
Of grace the sole immaculate design !



LO! earth and heaven,—the footstool
and the throne

Of Him who bowed obedient to thy
sway,

What time in lowly Nazareth, unknown,
He led of life the long-sequestered way—
Pause, till their tongues are tutored of
thine own,

“Magnificat” in wondering love to say.

The Debtor Christ

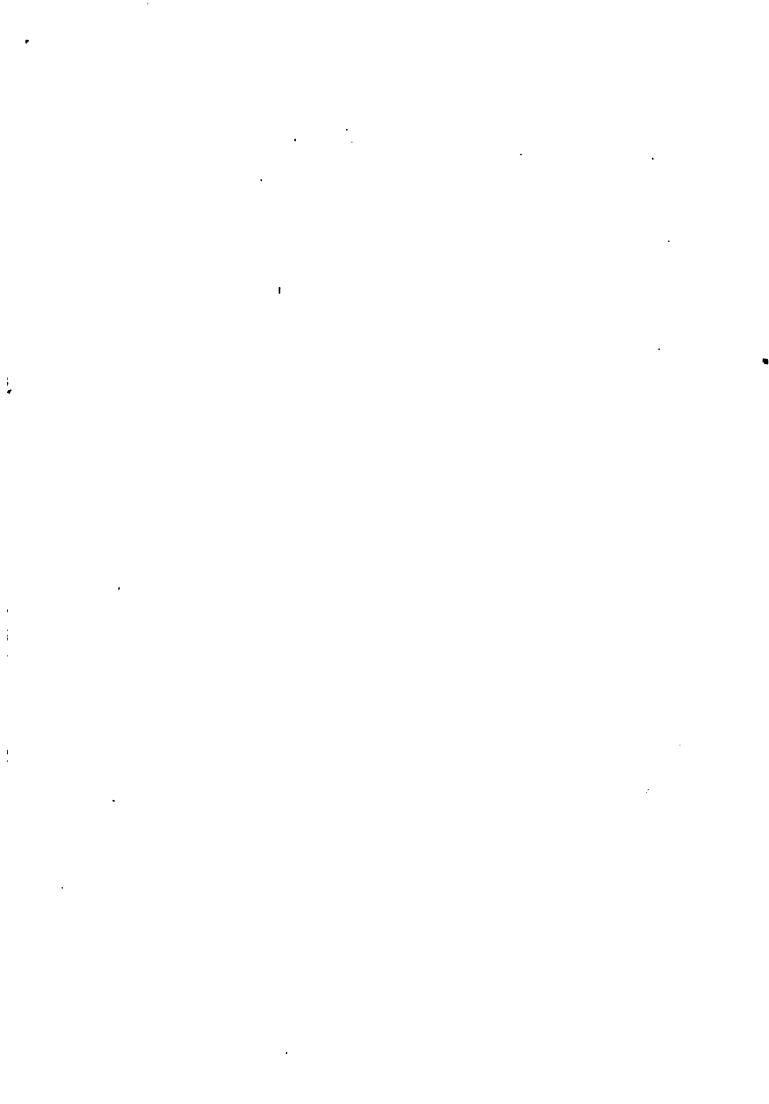
Quid mihi et tibi?

WHAT, woman, is my debt to thee,
That I should not deny
The boon thou dost demand of me?
“I gave thee power to die.”

A Pair of Turtle-Doves

The Purification

WHERE, woman, is thine offering—
The debt of law and love?
“My Babe a tender nestling is,
And I, the mother-dove.”



The Tree

THOU art the blessèd Tree,
Whose fruit proclaimeth thee,
O mother mine!
For never laden bough
Such burden bore as thou,
Of Love Divine.



Christ the Mendicant

A STRANGER, to His own
He came; and one alone,
Who knew not sin,
His lowliness believed,
And in her soul conceived
To let Him in.

HE naked was, and she
Of her humanity

A garment wove:

He Hungered; and she gave,

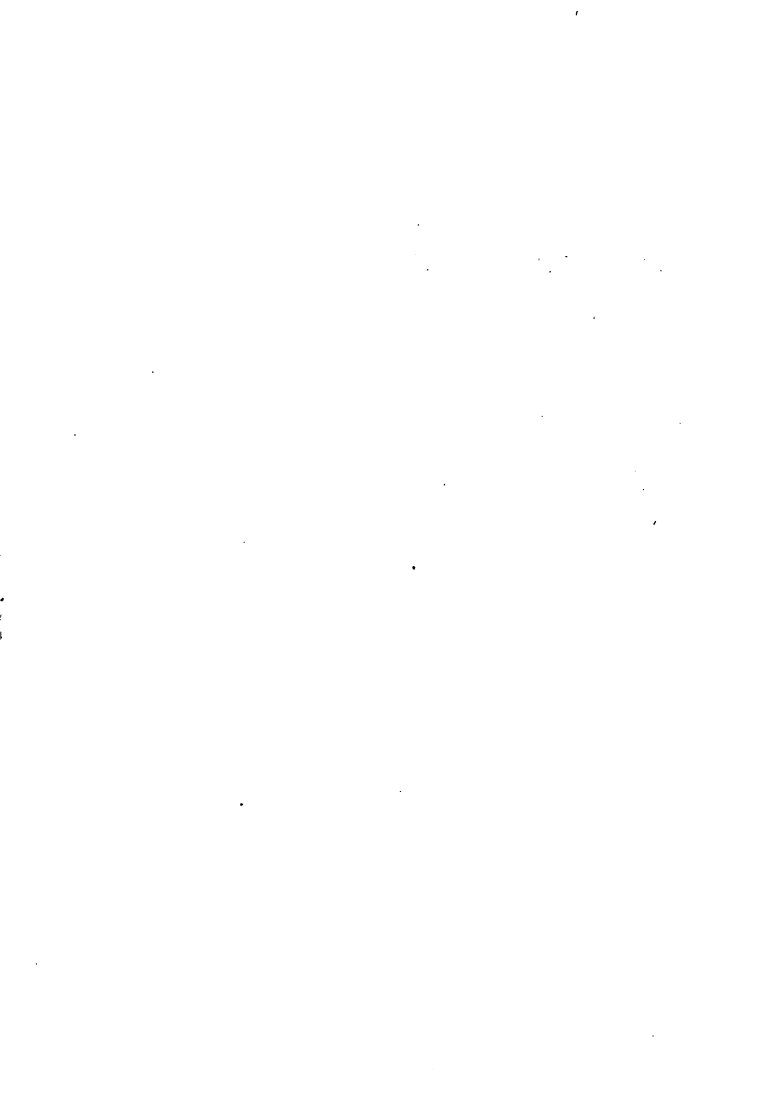
What most His heart did crave,

A Mother's love.



Child and Mother

LOOK on Thy Mother's face,
That miracle of grace,
O Son Divine!
That, bending, she may see
A greater mystery
Revealed in Thine.



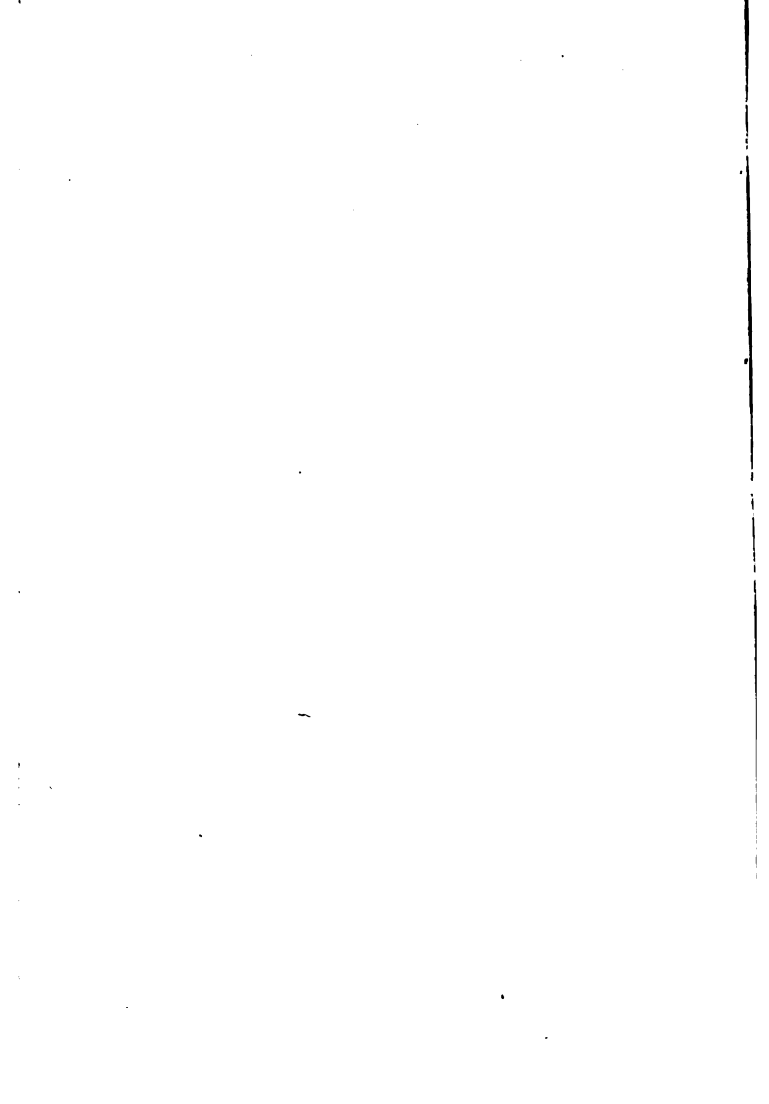
WITHOUT Thee, she had been
Nor Mother Blessed, nor Queen:
Nor wouldest Thou,
Her lowliness apart,
Have borne the Human Heart
Thou bearest now.

THEN, if I render love
Thro' her, Thou must approve
The tribute paid;
For 'tis Thy Holy Face,
Not Caesar's, that I trace
In hers portrayed.



Mary, the Sinner

MARY—'tis a tender plea;
Love is strong as Infamy;
In the Shadow of thy shame
Reverencing His Mother's name,
Lo! He pardons thee!





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